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AUTHOR	Lugg, Catherine A.
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ABSTRACT

The election of Ronald Reagan to President in 1980 marked the political zenith of modern American conservative ideology in the 20th century. This book presents a historical analysis of conservative ideology and its influence on federal school policies during Reagan's first administration, 1981-1984. It examines various conservative social agendas for American children and public education, including school prayer, tuition tax credits, and vouchers. It also looks at how the Republican's 1984 presidential election strategy has shaped federal education policy and examines the role of the religious right in conservative politics and its influence on educational policy. Chapters include: (1) "Entr'acte: Framing the Discussion"; (2) "Prologue: Setting the Stage"; (3) "Introducing the Characters"; (4) "Act I--God: The Play Unfolds (1981-1982)"; (5) "Act II--Country: The Play Continues (1983-1984)"; (6) "Finale and Coda." Each chapter contains a summary and numerous endnotes. (Contains an index.) (WFA)

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